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Academic Affairs Committee Minutes

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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2014

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee was called to order at 12:33 pm on April 1, 2014 in the MLS Classroom CSS 167 by Claire Strom.

Present:

Pedro Bernal, Philip Deaver, Claire Strom, Martina Vidovic, Jonathan Walz, Susan Walsh, Gabrielle Masse (student rep)

Visitors: Daphne Olsen, Jennifer Cavanaugh

A. Maymester Redux

Claire reported about the possible future of Maymester once current general education courses become less important. The committee that reviewed many proposals and plans for the college had several recommendations. One recommendation was that instead of focusing on courses that students need in order to graduate, the college may want to focus on courses that make Rollins distinctive – such as courses that focus on career and planning, community engagement, specific skills in science courses, immersion courses, field study courses. Another recommendation was to consider different credit models, including building classes in blocks of 2 credits and allowing students to take up to 6 credits (3 2-credit courses or one 4 credit + 1 2 credit course). This will also allow college to consider different payment, housing and compensations models. Maymester and summer sessions may also be used for offering courses for high school students or language intensive courses for international students. A working committee will be appointed to discuss Maymester during the fall of 2014 and will report to AAC. A pilot program will take place in May 2015 and the roll out for the new full program will start in May 2016.

Pedro suggested that field study programs can meet 1 week before the field study trip and for 1 full week following the field work instead of having short meetings during the spring semester and having no time for follow up. Jonathan liked this idea. Jonathan also suggested that we survey students about the future of Maymester. Gabriella said that she will bring this to the senate.

Claire will present the recommendations to the faculty at the next faculty meeting.

B. Credit/No credit option

Jenny reported on the discussion that took place within the Academic Appeals Committee about the issue of a large number of student appeals for a one time late credit no credit designation. The committee decided that the starting point will be to take the “one time late credit/no credit” choice from the appeals page since this is the name of the policy (which states that a student has to declare CR/NC by the last day of class) and therefore it is misleading. The next step will be to change the name of the policy to better indicate the deadline since the word “late” has its own interpretation. One possibility was to change the deadline until after the grades are in but the faculty does not support grade forgiveness.

Another possible change could be that students can retake the class for grade even if they get CR and would not have to purposely fail the final exam. However, they can still do this only once during their college career. The Appeals Committee will bring a more detailed proposal to the next meeting for further discussion.

C. Minutes Approved

The minutes from the March 25 meeting were approved.

D. Agenda for April 15, 2014

- 1) Approve minutes of last meeting
- 2) Meet new members of the committee
- 3) Election of the officers for next year

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm by Claire Strom. The next general meeting will be at 12:30 pm April 15, 2014 in the MLS Classroom CSS 167.

Minutes submitted by

Martina Vidovic

Approved by
